

 DENVER METRO
APARTMENT
VACANCY & RENT SURVEY
THIRD QUARTER 2013



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Metro Denver Vacancy & Rent Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY • 3RD QUARTER 2013



Vacancy Rate
4.4%
Last Quarter: 4.2%

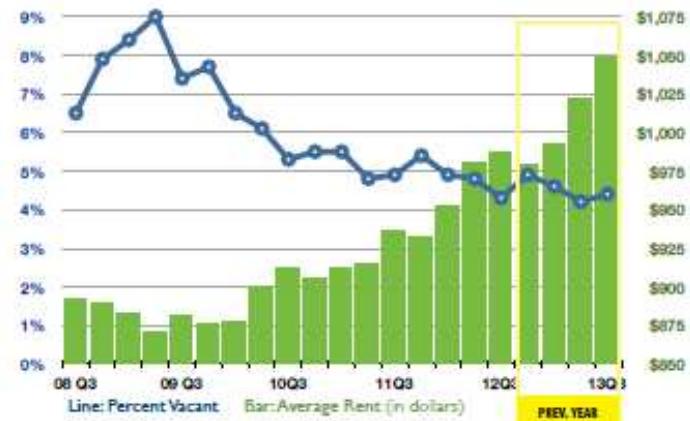
Average Rent
\$1,048.63
Last Quarter: \$1,032.33

Average per sq. ft.
\$1.23
Last Quarter: \$1.20

Discount / Concessions
8.8%
Last Quarter: 8.9%

Economic Vacancy
13.2%
Last Quarter: 13.0%

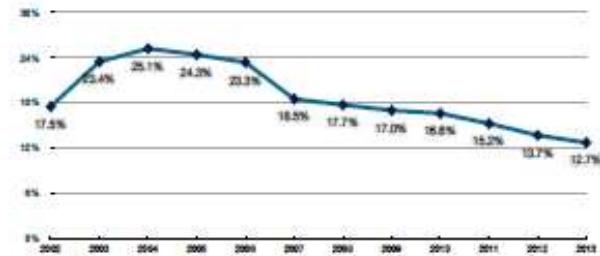
Net Absorption (Units)
1,077
Last Quarter: 1,519



County Overview

	Vacancy Rate	Average Rent	Rate /sq. ft.)
Adams	5.7%	\$962.53	\$1.17
Arapahoe	4.8%	\$1,007.31	\$1.17
Boulder/Broomfield	2.8%	\$1,194.19	\$1.38
Denver	4.6%	\$1,055.92	\$1.30
Douglas	3.5%	\$1,235.84	\$1.26
Jefferson	3.6%	\$1,035.64	\$1.22

Yearly Economic Vacancy (Average of all four quarters)



Hottest Sub-Markets

Boulder Except University	1.0%	Wheat Ridge	2.5%
Castle Rock	1.5%	Longmont	2.6%
Boulder University	2.0%	Commerce City / Brighton	2.8%

VACANCY:	4.4%
Last Quarter:	4.2 %
This quarter 2012:	4.3 %
This quarter 2011:	4.0 %

- Two counties were down in their vacancy rate, three were up, and one remained the same.
- Nineteen market areas showed an increase, while eighteen showed a decrease.
- Buildings with "350 and More" units had the highest vacancy rate at 4.9 %. Buildings with "Up to 8" units had the lowest vacancy rate of 2.3 %. Historically, larger buildings have the highest vacancy rates.
- Buildings constructed since 1940-1949 had the highest vacancies at 11.4 %. Those constructed up to 1939 had the lowest vacancy rate at 2.0 %.
- Efficiencies were 4.6 % vacant; one-bedrooms 4.1 % vacant; two-bedroom one bath 4.3 %; two-bedroom, two bath 5.1 % vacant; and three bedroom 4.4 % vacant.

RENTAL RATES:

• Average rent:	\$ 1,048.63	• Median rent:	\$ 987.63	• Rent / square foot:	\$ 1.23
• Last quarter:	\$ 1,022.33	• Last quarter:	\$ 960.57	• Last quarter:	\$ 1.20
• This quarter 2012:	\$ 986.42	• This quarter 2012:	\$ 919.97	• This quarter 2012:	\$ 1.16
• This quarter 2011:	\$ 936.46	• This quarter 2011:	\$ 881.67	• This quarter 2011:	\$ 1.09

Average Rent for Units Constructed:

• 2005-2012:	\$ 1,380.67
• 2000-2004:	\$ 1,223.41
• 1990-1999:	\$ 1,219.24
• 1980-1989:	\$ 971.11
• 1970-1979:	\$ 796.31
• 1960-1969:	\$ 841.73
• 1950 and prior:	\$ 815.34

Rents do not include the cost of rental discounts and concessions. For the third quarter of 2013, rental discounts and concessions averaged 8.8 percent, down from 8.9 percent for the prior quarter.

ECONOMIC VACANCY: 13.2%

Last Quarter:	13.0 %
This quarter 2012:	13.8 %
This quarter 2011:	15.3 %

Economic vacancy is defined as physical vacancy plus concessions and discounts as a percent of gross potential rent..

NEW UNITS ADDED: 1,591 TOTAL UNITS: 295,711

For the third quarter of 2013, there was a net absorption of 1,077 units for the metropolitan Denver area. For all of 2012, 3,138 units were absorbed. For all of 2011, 1,536 units were absorbed. For all of 2010, the total positive absorption was 6,827 units. Absorption is the net change in the number of apartment units rented in the current time period (quarter/year) compared to the previous time period (quarter/year).

OVERALL COMMENTS:

Given an increase in the number of new additions to the inventory this quarter in comparison to the last two plus years, the recent trend in the Denver metro unemployment rate, normal seasonal vacancy changes, continued immigration, and an increase in metro area natural population, a continued historically low vacancy rate was uncertain, and did not materialize. Historically the vacancy rate is higher in the fourth and first quarters than the second and third quarters, which we see again this year. The number of new units to be added to the inventory during 2013 is expected to increase further this fall, as seasonal construction is completed and permitted construction obtains certificates of occupancy. Thus we expect jumps in sub markets vacancy while new units are absorbed and a slight increase in the Denver overall vacancy. The overall average rent for the last ten years has increased from around \$800.00 in 2002 to over \$1,048.63 this quarter. In contrast the economic vacancy increased in comparison to the last quarter, indicating a potential start of increased competition for tenants. The overall vacancy rate has broken trend, now at 4.4%. The expectation was a continued downturn in vacancy. Although absorption was strong with 1,077 units, the addition of 1,591 units for the 3rd quarter, increased the overall vacancy.

The Denver Area Apartment Vacancy and Rent Survey reports median and average rates, and, as a result, there are often differences in rental rates and vacancy rates by apartment type, size, location, and age of building/complex. These variances are more pronounced as the vacancy rate has fluctuated during the last several years. All information is based on data received for the month of September, except for resident turnover and rental losses, which is for August.

This survey is conducted via mail and online submissions. It includes only those units with a certificate of occupancy. The third quarter 2013 Survey includes information on 115,288 apartment units. The Survey is possible because of the excellent participation and help of professionals in the Apartment Industry and the constant support of the Survey sponsors. Comments on the Survey are welcome at VorStromHousingSurvey@gmail.com.

SPECIAL TOPIC: New Units

As stated in the special topic last quarter, due to a tight inventory of single family homes and rental costs cheaper than home ownership, no real drop-off in the demand for rental housing is expected. The larger question is this: how many rental units is enough? We mentioned that scrutiny would start this fall as projects in the Denver metro area near completion, adding to the inventory of particular sub markets. But the future expansion of permitted units may stall due to competition, the tightening of the lending market, and increases in commercial lending rates.

It is estimated that the number of new units being developed for the Denver Metro Area is as high as 12,000. Can the market absorb this quantity of new supply? Of course it can over time, but will it lead to a reduction of rent? The overall population of the Denver metro area is currently increasing by approximately 38,000 people per year. Approximately half of this is from net migration and the other half is natural increase. With an estimated household size of 2.1 persons, that equates to roughly 18,000 new households per year. Assuming that 30% of these households are apartment dwellers, this equates to 5,400 units per year as a long term average of demand. Reviewing historical tables of new units we see that this makes sense on a long term basis, with cycles and events influencing particular years. Therefore the number of new units being developed represents approximately a two plus year supply.

Thus the questions become how long will it take to absorb new units in individual submarkets, whether the concentration of units in particular sub markets will erode rents in those markets, and whether there will be a spillover effect to other submarkets that have fewer overall new units coming on line. The primary example is the number of new units to be completed in downtown Denver, specifically the Lodo area. This winter we will monitor the completion of new units and comment specifically on the downtown and adjacent submarkets.

METRO DENVER SUBMARKETS

(Individual Submarkets Defined on the "Market Area Descriptions and Census Tracts" Page at the end of each section.)

Red: Vacancy Rate
Blue: Average Rent

